



**Disciples
Making Disciples**



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In Preparation For Lent

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
3 Mar 2019

Sir 27:4-7
1 Cor 15:54-58
Lk 6:39-45

Traditionally known as “*Quinquagesima* Sunday”, this last Sunday before Lent draws our attention to Easter which is about 50 days away (“*quinquagesimus*” is Latin for “50th”). It also marks the start of the brief Pre-Lenten season of Shrovetide. Just as Lent is preparation for Easter and calls for repentance, Shrovetide is preparation for Lent and invites us to *reflect* on our shortfalls that we may appropriately begin Lent in the right spirit; akin to a toe-dip before the plunge into a pool.

The readings this Sunday thus challenge us to take a hard look at our faith. In the Gospel, Christ speaks frankly, reminding us of our need for spiritual guidance. Pride often causes us to presume that we know better than Holy Mother Church - with matters of sexuality and morality often points of dissension. When Christ’s teachings contradict our own ‘personal ethic’, we often respond like fair-weather travellers instead of disciples; choosing to bespoke a faith which is convenient to follow.

Christ reminds us today of our blindness and alludes to the pitfalls of worldliness. A disposition which perverts divine truths: subverting moral absolutism with relativism - in the guise of “tolerance”; self-control

“We need to change again, to be more loyal and humble, so that we become less selfish and let Christ grow in us, for He must become more and more, I must become less and less”

*St Josemaria,
Christ is Passing By, 58.*



with licentiousness - in the guise of “freedom”; and obedience with contempt - in the guise of “individuality”. When we deny our blindness, we will fail to heed the voice of our Divine Teacher and are guided instead by the “blind” ideologies of the world (Pope Francis – “Three voices” 2016).

In preparation for Lent, let us thus cultivate humility, recognising that we require constant formation by Christ through his Church who is “Mother and Teacher” to us all (CCC 2030-2034). Only with humility and obedience will we be able to eschew our personal convictions for Christ’s, thereby becoming better disciples (St Aphrahat the Sage, Demonstration IX).

Lent is a time of mortification and penance - a kind of “spring-cleaning” of the soul. Because no Christian can “grow in perfection... except on the basis of penance” (St John XXIII, *Paenitentiam Agere*), Lent encourages us to crucify our “flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal 5.24), that we may unite ourselves with Christ’s passion and become more like him (CCC 2100).

Akin to the husking of grain and kilning of pots (Sir 27:4-7), the act of changing oneself is often a disquieting and painful process. As our husk-ridden

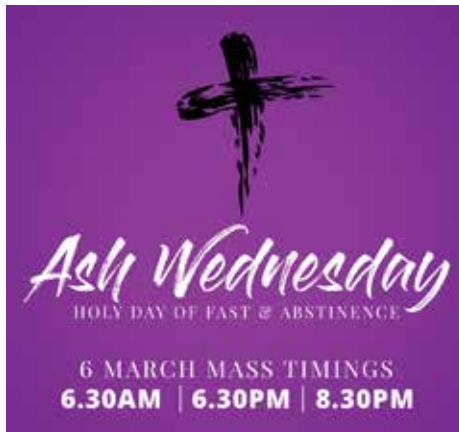
souls are agitated and our impure-pride scalded away, we are often confronted with aspects of ourselves we would rather overlook; aspects which root us in habitual sin. The temptation of overlooking our own faults distracts us from the logs in our eyes, to focus instead on the splinters in others (Lk 6:39-45).

This *penitential hypocrisy* not only limits the quality of our penance, but also forestalls true conversion. We could even be sanctimoniously engrossing ourselves with many religious activities that do not tend to the necessities of our souls. Let us therefore not labour in vain this Lent, but labour so that we may produce good fruits, fruits which can only be born when we become more like Christ – the source of our fruitfulness (CCC 755).

Quinquagesima...Indeed, Easter is not far away! In a blink of an eye, 40 days of Lent will be over. Before it begins, let us thus establish concrete spiritual goals for this period and resolve to stay focused on them; that we may overcome the sting of sin (1 Cor 15:54-58). Clothed with an incorruptible soul forged this Lent, may we rise with Christ at Easter to proclaim with him “Death, where is your victory, where is your sting?” (1 Cor 15:55).

Announcements

For announcements in the bulletin, send your requests to mmm@sfxchurch.sg by the MONDAY before the weekend, 2359hrs



HOLY HOUR

Come spend some time with our Lord at Holy Hour, on **Thu 7 Mar, 8.30pm** in the main church.

LENTEN FRIDAYS

Stations of the cross at 8pm, followed by Mass at 8.30pm.
** There will be no mass at 6.30pm*

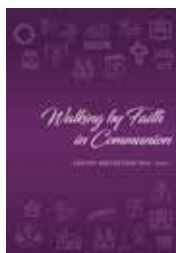
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS, WE NEED YOU!

Have an eye for design, are creative, and are proficient in Adobe InDesign? If that sounds like you, we want you! SFX's Marketing and Media Ministry (MMM) is looking for graphic designers that could help out in designing parish collaterals. If you would love to exercise your artistic talents by helping out in the parish, look no further! Contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg for more information!

ONE: LENT REFLECTION BOOKLET AVAILABLE

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a booklet of reflections for the season of Lent. The theme is **"Walking by Faith in Communion"**.

The booklet will be available on Ash Wed, do take a copy of the booklet for your household. It will also be made available online at bit.ly/one-lent-2019



PRAY FOR OUR RCIA/RCIY PARTICIPANTS

It's fast approaching Easter, and our RCIA/RCIY catechumens and candidates are inching closer to the waters of baptism. We continue to support them and pray for their conversion, and for their hearts to be open to the Lord.

We have put up a banner with their faces at the front of the church, so do give them a friendly smile and some encouragement when you see them around in church! Also, do pick someone to pray for. As a community, let this be one of our commitments this Lent!



CALL FOR INTERESTED PARISHIONERS TO JOIN MISSION TRIPS

SFX SiGN (Sowers in God's Name) will be organizing our next mission trips to Myanmar on **29 Mar - 3 Apr** (TBC) and **early June** (TBC). We will once again visit the Nazareth Bush School to assist Fr Benjamin Eihsu with the children's spiritual formation, as well as to oversee a water supply project sponsored by CHARIS Singapore. If you are keen to join in either Mission trips or wish to find out more, please contact Anne (9741 9634) or Thud Chee (9632 3489) for more details.

THE BIBLE AND MARY

A Bible Study presented by SFX BAT. Are Catholic teachings on Mary really biblical or are they "traditions of men"? By praying to Mary, are Catholics worshipping her? Did Mary actually remain a virgin her whole life or are the "brothers of Jesus" mentioned in the Gospels her other children? How does the Bible teach that Mary is the new Eve, the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and Earth and the new Ark of the Covenant? ALL are welcome. Bring your bible and a pen. To register, please contact Helen Chong at 9757 4853.

Date: 3 Mar, 10 Mar, 17 Mar, 31 Mar 2019 (Sundays)

Time: 9am - 10.30am

Venue: SFX Room (Parish Centre, Level 2)

SFX FAMILY WALKATHON (UPDATE)

There are about 200 fund-raising cards left to be issued out. We need you to participate so that all can be issued to assist in the fund-raising. Take a card if you have not done so or take another card if you have completed your previous one. Every filled card brings the fund-raising amount to the target needed for the renovation fund. If you wish to donate, you may also wish to buy over the card for \$200.

We have started collecting back the fund-raising cards from those who have completed. The collection of these completed fund-raising cards is at the front porch of the parish after weekend masses.

SHINE COMBINED TERTIARY CAMP 2019

Calling ALL DIPLOMA and ITE students, or those who will be entering, to SHINE 2019! Let us come together to encounter and abide in the Lord this March holiday! There are limited spaces, so sign up now! Registration ends on **3 Mar 2019**. Register at oyp.org.sg/shine2019

Date: 19-22 Mar (Tues-Fri)

Venue: Office for Young People, 2 Lorong Low Koon, S(536449)

Cost: \$50

CHARIS MISSION TRIP

Join us in building Bio-sand filters for Typhoon Haiyan survivors in Cebu, Philippines. From **31 Mar - 6 Apr 2019**, \$900 per pax. Limited spaces available. Kindly register at tinyurl.com/chariscebu2019. For more information, contact Antaeus at antaeus@charis-singapore.org or call 6337 4119. Website www.charis-singapore.org



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS THIS MONTH

EVANGELIZATION - CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

PARISH RENOVATION UPDATE

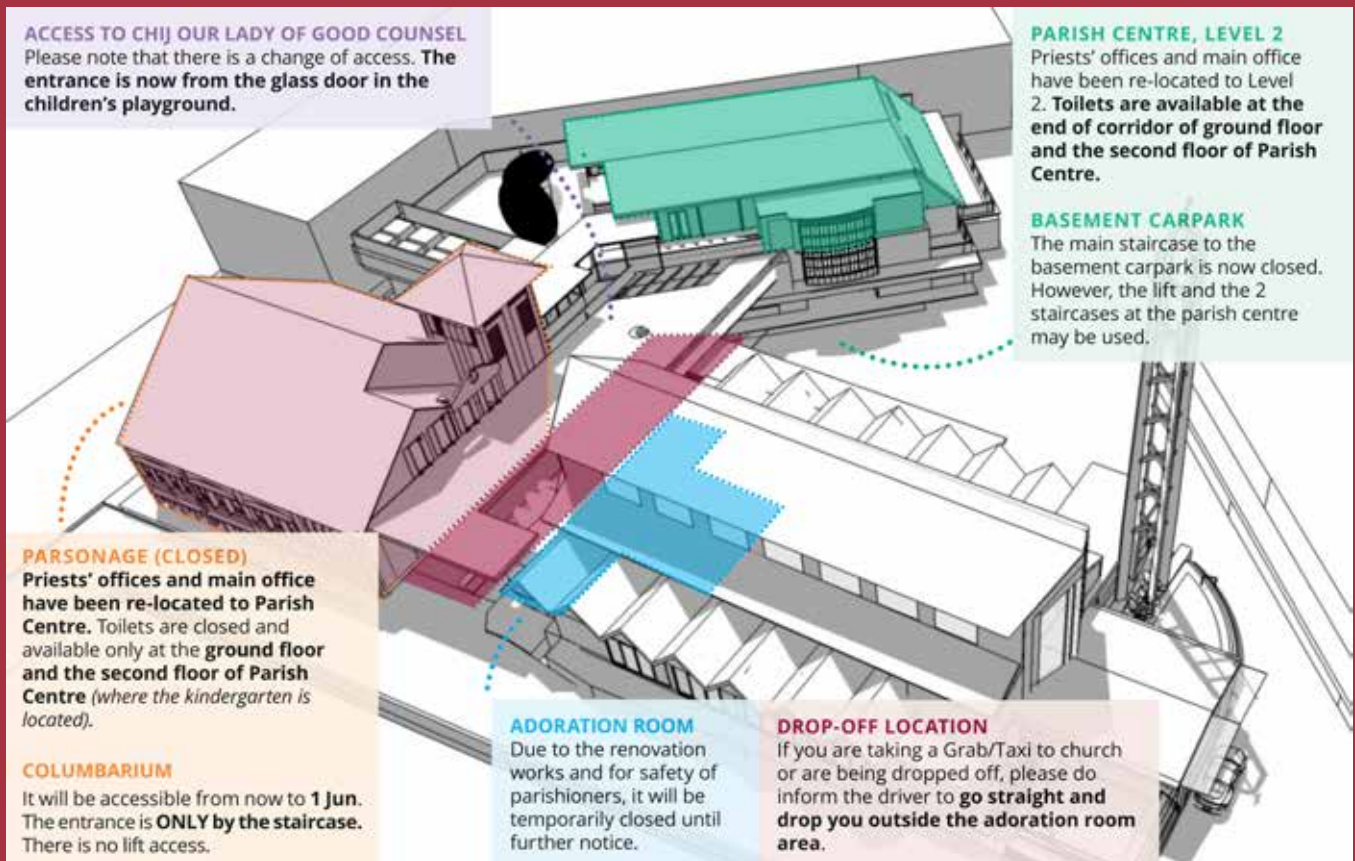
The parsonage is now under renovation. For access to toilets, the columbarium and OLGC, please take note of this pictorial representation below. For any other enquiries, email us at reno@sfxchurch.sg

IN THE MONTH OF FEB 2018

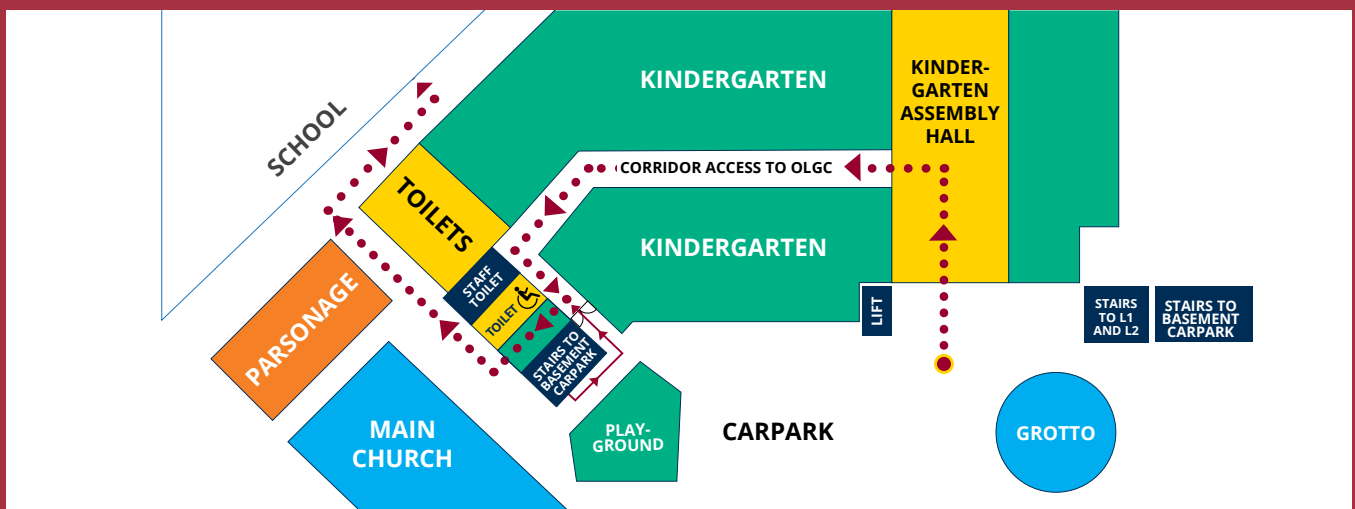
INFANT/ ADULT BAPTISMS

We welcome the following:

1. Goh Rui Qiao Charlotte



Access To CHIŶ Our Lady Of Good Counsel



PLAYGROUND IS OUT OF BOUND FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

Covenant Ritual I



On 24th Feb 2019, about 52 teens went through their covenant ritual as part of their journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is their first covenant ritual as the next and concluding covenant ritual will be early next year for this cohort.

The paralyurgy of the covenant ritual uses the symbol of water. Water cleans, it refreshes, it quenches, and it gives the opportunity of a fresh and clean start or a new beginning. This covenant ritual seeks to remind the teens that through the waters of Baptism, each one was embraced by the Church as a child of God and a member of the family of faith. As they grew up, the teens have depended on their parents to ensure that they grow in their faith. It is now time for each teen to assume a greater ownership and responsibility of their faith and to develop a deeper relationship with Christ.

As part of the ritual, the teens were also asked to commit to continue to grow in their faith as a disciple and to mature in their faith as disciples of Christ. This is their journey. They are however not alone on this journey. The parish community represented by their parents, godparents and catechists will continue to journey with them and they will not be alone in facing any trials that may come their way.

The Catechetical Ministry aims to prepare each teen to be a disciple of Christ. Through the grace of baptism and the faith filled examples of their family, their catechists, and the parish community, the teens will be able to identify what it means to be... "Disciples Making Disciples".



Looking for more Information?
visit www.sfxchurch.sg!

Mass Timings

WEEKEND MASSES

Sat Sunset:
5.30pm (Novena at 4.45pm)
Sun: 7am, 9am, 11am & 5.30pm
Confession 15 mins before Sunday Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon - Fri:
6.30am & 6.30pm
Sat: 6.30am

MASS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30am *only*

HOLY HOUR

8.30pm, every first Thurs of the month

Opening Hours

PARISH OFFICE

Mon - Fri:
9am - 9pm
Sat: 9am - 7pm
Sun: 8am - 1pm

ADORATION ROOM

20 Feb Onwards,
Temporarily closed

LIBRARY

Temporarily closed

COLUMBARIUM

Daily: 7am - 9pm
Will be closed from **1 Jun - 31 July**

CANTEEN

Temporarily closed

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



The sacrament can be administered to any Catholic awaiting serious surgery, suffering from serious illness or weakened by old age. Anointing may be given before admission for the anticipated medical procedure. Contact the Parish Office to request for a priest. In emergencies, priests of the church nearest to the hospital can be contacted.

INFANT BAPTISM



Baptism of Infants is held every 2nd Sunday of the odd month at 4pm in the main church. Preparation session for both parents and godparents is held the Sunday before at 3.30pm in the SFX room. For more information please contact infbaptism@sfxchurch.sg.

FUNERAL



Please check with the Parish Office for priest availability and Mass timing before confirming the timing at the crematorium. For prayers at the wake, please contact St.Pio prayer group via the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE



Contact the Parish Office 12 months before your intended date to book the church premises and ensure that your presiding priest is able to make that date. Church unavailable from 1 Nov 2018 due to renovations.

MASS OFFERING



Mass offering envelopes are available outside the Parish Office. Submit your envelopes at least two weeks in advance of your intended date. Please write the names clearly, and in block letters.

VOLUNTEER & SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

If you're interested in content curation and design layout, contact mmm@sfxchurch.sg